



Division of Environmental Health
Drinking Water

Care for MiWell Promotion Toolkit



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Introduction

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) Division of Environmental Health (DEH) has identified gaps in drinking water informational resources, especially for private residential well owners. Because of this, we have developed the MiWell Drinking Water and Health Promotion Program. This program includes creative tools to help all Michiganders become actively involved in understanding their homes' drinking water.

This toolkit compiles the DEH resources that are currently available. They can be freely used by state and local organizations to promote drinking water education in their communities. The content of the toolkit will:

- increase Michiganders' knowledge and awareness of how drinking water may impact health.
- encourage Michiganders to take the right actions to reduce and prevent exposures.
- be updated as new materials are developed, so check back often to see what is new! You can also subscribe at bit.ly/Drinking-Water-Health-Newsletter to our drinking water and health newsletter so you'll be aware of updates.

Toolkit Purpose

This toolkit contains prepared, science-based social media messages, graphics, videos, and printable materials. All these materials are designed to make sharing drinking water information easy! Sharing information about drinking water and health helps support the outreach and education aims of the Drinking Water and Health Promotion Program. It also ensures that Michiganders know where their drinking water comes from and the simple actions they can take to ensure they're not being exposed to lead, arsenic, PFAS, coliform bacteria and *E.coli*, or other potential contaminants that can end up in our drinking water.

How to Use This Toolkit

We encourage you to share our materials through various avenues to reach more Michiganders with important information about drinking water and health. Consider social media platforms, websites, mailers, and more.

Click on each icon to download the image or document of interest. Once downloaded, you can share, save, or print the image or document.



Social Media Posts

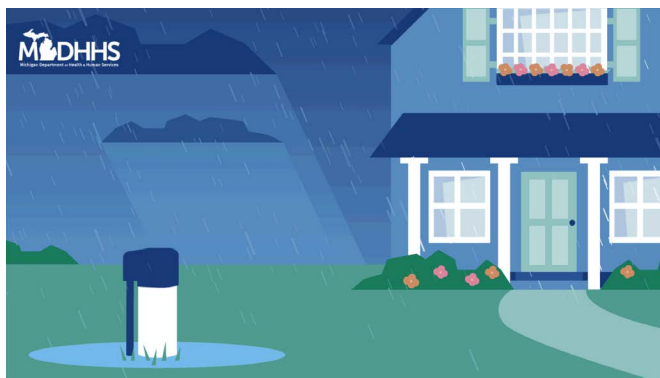
The following social media posts have been designed to communicate critical drinking water information to Michigan residents. Topics covered include:

- Private Residential Well Drinking Water Testing
- Private Residential Well Maintenance
- Private Residential Wells
- Groundwater
- Learn Where Your Drinking Water Come From
- Drinking Water Contaminants

Posts are organized by social media platform. View and save images by clicking the icon/image. The image will open in a new window where you can then download and save to your files. You can copy and paste the post content to share along with the corresponding image.

Facebook/Instagram Posts

Topic: Private Residential Well Drinking Water Testing

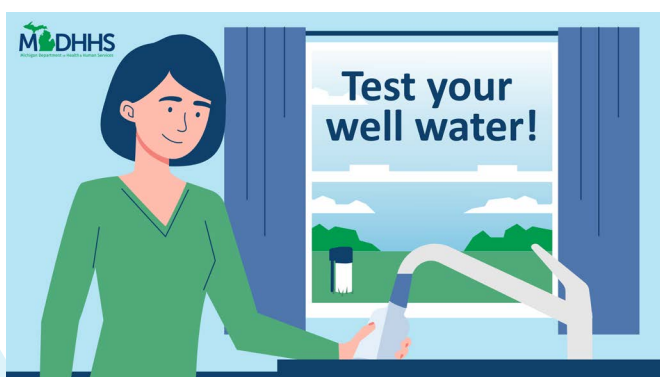


Spring showers bring flooding water!

If you have a well, flooding water can be a problem. Water can collect contaminants found on the ground as it pools. If your well is poorly constructed or maintained, these contaminants could end up in your drinking water. Flood water can also carry debris that can damage the wellhead, allowing contaminants to enter your drinking water.

If flooding happens near your well, consider testing the water you drink for coliform bacteria, nitrate, and nitrite.

Learn about other times you should consider testing your well water at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline 844-934-1315.



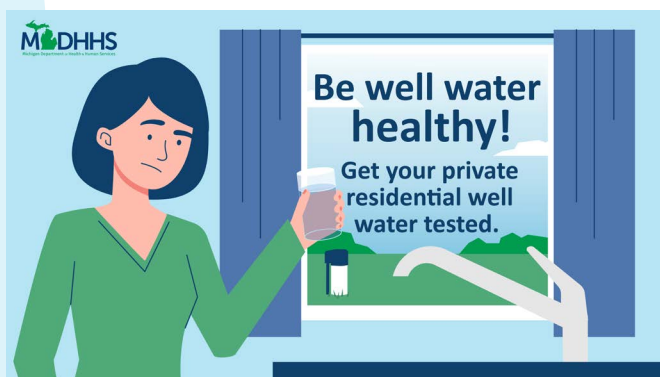
Do you know if your well water is safe to drink?

The only way to know is to test your water. In Michigan, private well water is not required to be routinely tested like a public water supply.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services recommends testing your well water:

- Every year for coliform bacteria, nitrate, and nitrite
- Every 3 to 5 years for arsenic, copper, and lead

Learn about other times you should test your well water at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline 844-934-1315.



Be well water healthy! If you have a private residential well, routinely test your drinking water to know it's safe.

A United States Geological Survey study found that 23% of tested wells contained one or more contaminants above federal drinking water standards or health-based levels.

Learn more about testing your water at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



Have a private residential well and thinking about starting a family? Get your drinking water tested!

Contaminants may enter drinking water unnoticed. Many have no color, taste, or smell. Pregnant persons, infants, and young children's health can be more at risk from some contaminants.

Learn more at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



Are you looking to buy a home with a private residential well?

Test the water to make sure it's safe for you and your family! Learn more about testing and what to test for at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Check with the county to see what testing may be required before a real estate transaction.



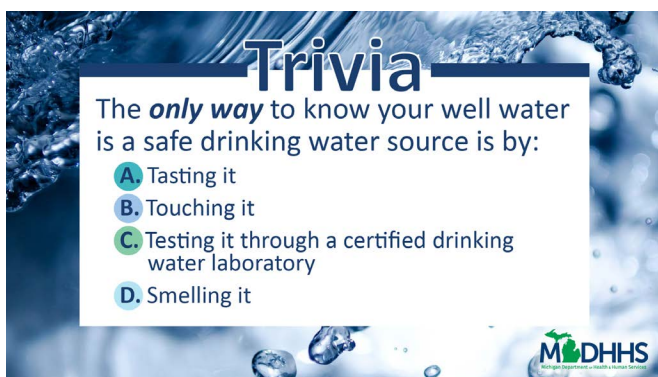
Are you a new homeowner with a private residential well?

Know the quality of your water to protect your health. Contaminants can enter drinking water unnoticed. Many have no color, taste, or smell and some can be harmful. Testing your water is the only way to know if it's safe.

Learn more about testing and what to test for at bit.ly/MiWellTesting. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



The correct answer is B. Test your residential well water every year for coliform bacteria. Learn more about testing your private residential well water at bit.ly/MiWellColiformBacteria or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



The correct answer is C. Test your residential well water routinely to ensure you have a safe drinking water source. Learn more about testing your private residential well water at bit.ly/MiWellTesting or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Topic: Private Residential Well Maintenance



As a private residential well owner, have you ever wondered how safe your water is?

Contaminants can enter water undetected, as many have no smell, taste, or color. Protect your loved ones by keeping your water safe by knowing how to:

- Maintain your well
- Test your drinking water
- Treat your water, if needed

Learn more on how to keep your water safe at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



Taking care of your private residential well is good for your health! Protect yourself and your loved ones from contaminants that can make you sick by:

- Inspecting your wellhead and well system
- Creating a routine well maintenance schedule that includes testing your water
- Keeping a record of your maintenance to reference

Learn more about these well maintenance tips at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



Private residential well owners, do you check for cracks and openings on your wellhead and well cap several times a year?

A wellhead and well cap keep polluted rainwater, insects, and small animals from getting into the well. If these get in, it can make your water unhealthy.

Learn more about well maintenance at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



Own a private residential well? Never store, use, or dump harmful products in your yard. These can soak into the ground and contaminate the water you drink. Find a local household hazardous waste program to correctly dispose of products you no longer need: bit.ly/EGLEHazardousWaste.

Learn more ways you can protect your drinking water at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



As a private residential well owner, have you ever had your well system inspected?

Well systems should be inspected by a professional at least every 10 years. Making sure your well system is in good condition means safer water to drink!

Learn more well maintenance tips at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



Getting your lawn ready for spring?

As a well owner, remember to never store, use, or dump lawn fertilizers and pesticides near your wellhead. If your wellhead or cap has cracks or is not properly sealed, these products could get into your well. They can also seep into the ground and contaminate groundwater.

Always follow application instructions for fertilizers and pesticides and don't over-apply near the wellhead.

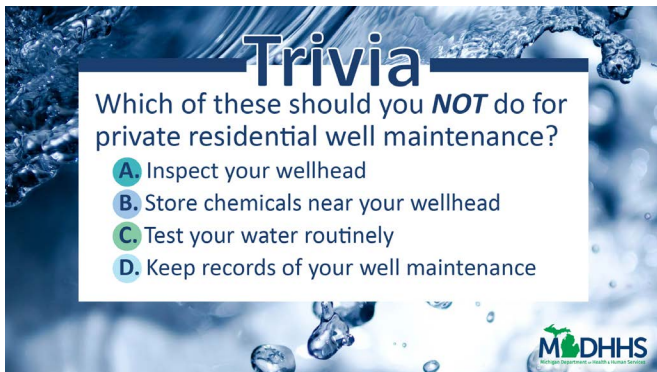
Learn more ways you can protect your well at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance. You can also call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline 844-934-1315.



Private well owners: Can you easily get to your wellhead for maintenance?

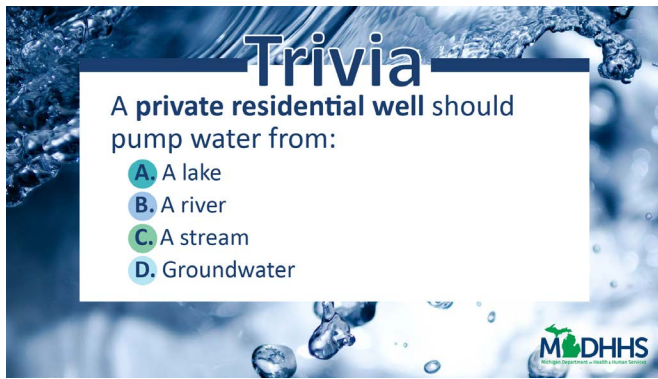
If you're not sure, now would be a good time to look. Your wellhead should always be easy to access, and structures should never be built over it.

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The correct answer is B. Never store, use, or dump chemicals near your wellhead. Chemicals can get into your well or seep into the ground and contaminate the water you drink.

Learn more ways you can protect your drinking water at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



The correct answer is D. Private residential wells should pump groundwater from deep below the Earth's surface. Groundwater is water from rain and snow that soaked into the soil and moved downward through cracks and other openings in rocks and sand over time. Learn more about ways you can protect your drinking water at Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell" or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Topic: Private Residential Wells



FACT!

There's over one million Michiganders whose drinking water comes from groundwater pumped by a private residential well. Do you get your drinking water from a private residential well?

Learn more about wells at Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell" or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



Did you know, contaminants, natural and human-made, can enter water unnoticed, since many have no smell, taste, or color? Some can be harmful to your health. Proper well maintenance and regular water testing can help protect the health of you and your family.

To learn how to protect your private residential well drinking water and your health, go to Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell."

Topic: Ground Water



Fact! Just under half of Michiganders use groundwater as their drinking water source. This includes both community public water supplies and private residential wells. Let's keep our drinking water sources safe and protect the water you drink. Learn more about protecting your well at Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell" or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.



Myth! 95% of all the fresh water in the world (not including polar ice caps) is actually groundwater. In Michigan, 44% of residents get their drinking water from groundwater.

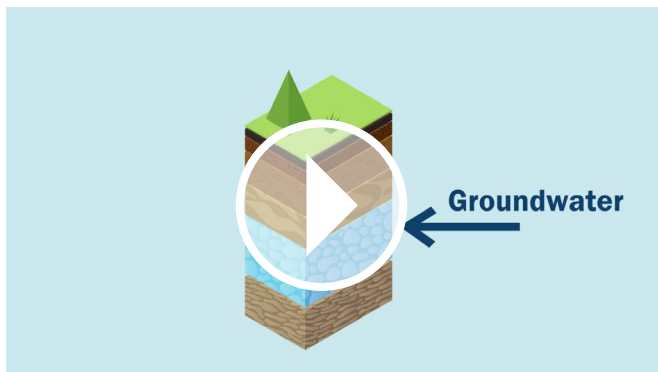
Learn more about groundwater and private residential wells at Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell" or call MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315.

Topic: Where your drinking water comes from



Water is an essential part of all living things. It is also essential that you are aware of your own drinking water quality. Do you know where your drinking water comes from?

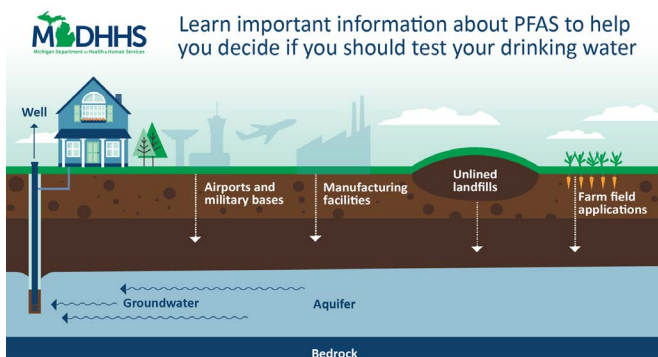
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Have you ever wondered where your drinking water comes from or how it gets to your home? Let's follow water as it goes through our environment and becomes our drinking water in this short video.

To learn more about Michigan's residential water supply types go to bit.ly/DrinkingWaterSupplyTypes.

Topic: Drinking Water Contaminants



Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) have been used in the industry of manufacturing and commercial products for many years. When these products are made or used in industry, they are sometimes released into the environment. When this happens and depending on where you live, your well water could be impacted or contaminated by PFAS.

Having a private residential well means that you are responsible for your own water system. This includes taking care of your well system to protect your drinking water and health. Learn important information about PFAS. It could help you decide if you should test your drinking water. To learn more about PFAS in drinking water go to bit.ly/MiWellPFAS.

Twitter Posts (<280 characters)

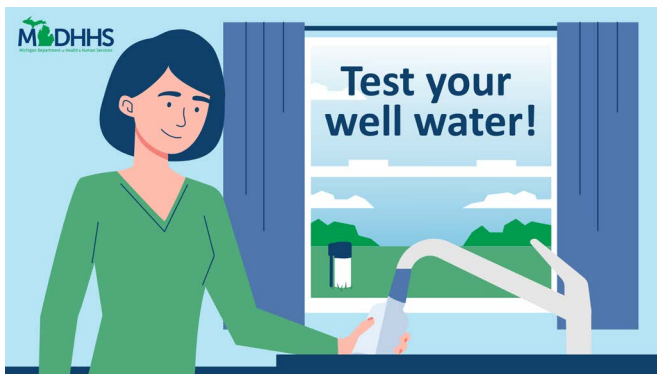
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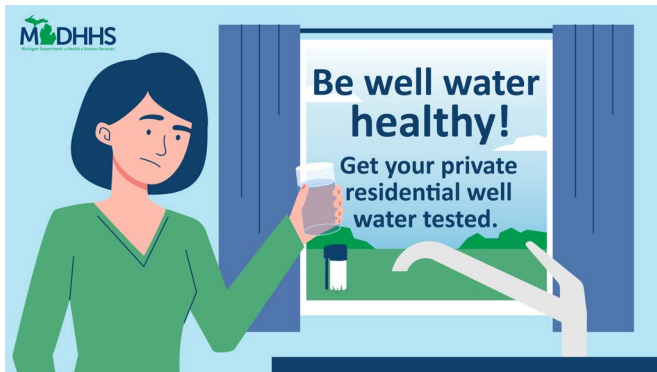
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Routinely test your well water to know it's safe to drink.

A USGS study found that 23% of tested wells contained one or more contaminants above federal drinking water standards or health-based levels.

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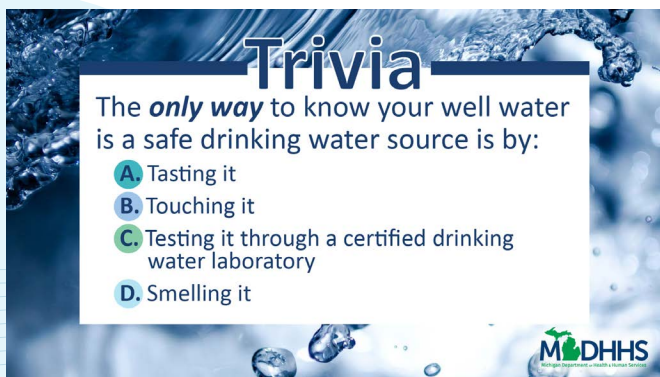
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Topic: Private Residential Well Maintenance



As a private residential well owner, do you wonder how safe your water is?

Protect your family by knowing how to:

- Maintain your well
- Test your drinking water
- Treat your water, if needed

Learn more on how to keep your water safe at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance or call 844-934-1315.



Protect your family from harmful contaminants by:

- Inspecting your well system
- Creating a routine well maintenance schedule, including water testing
- Keeping a record of your maintenance

Learn more about well maintenance tips at bit.ly/MiWellMaintenance or call 844-934-1315.



Private residential well owners, do you check for cracks and openings on your wellhead and well cap often?

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Have your private residential well system inspected!

As a private residential well owner, have you ever had your well system inspected?

Well systems should be inspected by a professional at least every 10 years.

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Store and apply lawn products away from your wellhead.

Getting your lawn ready for spring?

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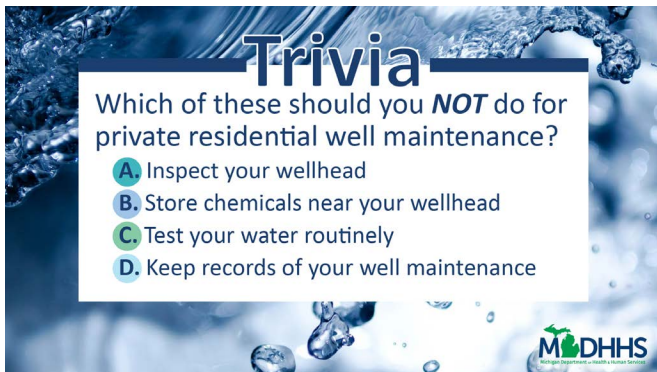
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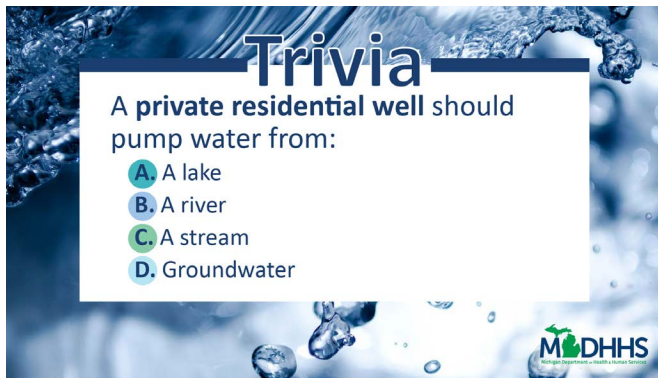
Trivia

Which of these should you **NOT** do for private residential well maintenance?

- A. Inspect your wellhead
- B. Store chemicals near your wellhead
- C. Test your water routinely
- D. Keep records of your well maintenance

The correct answer is B. Never store, use, or dump chemicals near your wellhead. Chemicals can get into your well or seep into the ground and contaminate the water you drink.

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The correct answer is D. Private wells should pump groundwater from deep below Earth's surface. Groundwater is water from rain and snow that soaked into soil and moved downward through openings in rocks and sand. Learn more at Michigan.gov/EnviroHealth and choose "Care for MiWell" or call 844-934-1315.

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Did you know, contaminants can enter water unnoticed, since many have no smell, taste, or color? Some can be harmful to your health. Proper well maintenance and water testing can help protect the health of you and your family.

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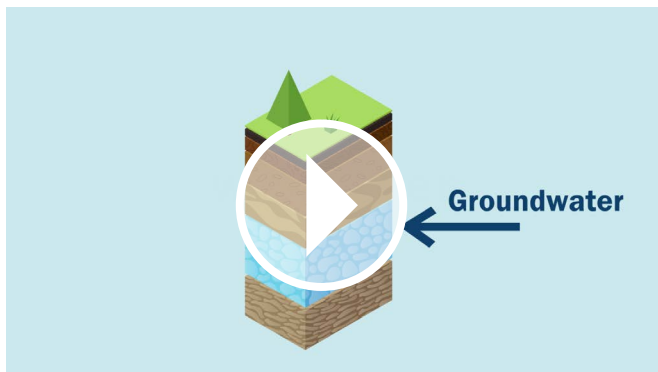
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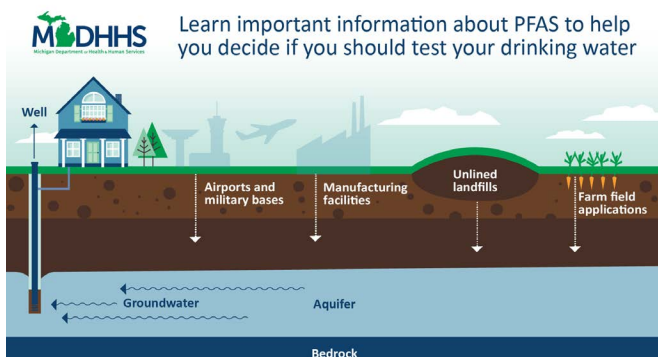
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Topic: Drinking Water Contaminants



Learn important information about PFAS to help you decide if you should test your drinking water

When per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are made or used in industry, they are sometimes released into the environment.

Learn important information about PFAS to help you decide if you should test your drinking water. To learn more go to bit.ly/MiWellPFAS.



Educational Material

The following educational material have been developed and designed to communicate critical drinking water information to Michigan residents. Material in this toolkit provide in depth information about:

- where your drinking water comes from
- best drinking water practices, and
- common drinking water contaminants.

View and save the fact sheet by clicking on the icon/image. The material will open in a new window where you can then download and save to your files.

Fact Sheets

Drinking Water Contaminants

Coliform Bacteria

Coliform Bacteria in Drinking Water for Well Owners

What are coliform bacteria?
Coliform bacteria are found in soil, surface water, on plants, and in the intestines of warm-blooded animals and people. One type of coliform bacteria called fecal coliform (F. coli) is a sign that fecal waste is in the water. Some types of F. coli in drinking water can make you sick.

What health problems can coliform bacteria cause?
Most coliform bacteria are not harmful. However, some can make you sick. A person that has been exposed to these bacteria may have an upset stomach, vomiting, fever, or diarrhea. Children and the elderly are more at risk from these bacteria.
Take 2 coliform bacteria seriously when found in drinking water. Some could make you sick or even cause death.


Vomiting	Upset Stomach
Fever	Diarrhea

How does coliform bacteria get into your well water?
When coliform bacteria are washed into the ground by rain, melting snow, or irrigation, F. coli can get into drinking water. Coliform bacteria can be from:

- Woodlands, pastures, or nearby forest
- Wild or domestic animal waste
- Recently maintained septic systems

Coliform bacteria can enter your water if you have:

- A damaged wellhead (the part of the well that allows ground water to enter the casing and/or well caps)
- An unsealed or abandoned well in the area
- A new well not properly disinfected
- Drinking water pipes connected to non-drinking water sources such as waste water, laundry sinks, or garden hoses



Damaged wellhead with cracked well cap and exposed wires.
Photo provided by Barry Slater, Detroit Health Department

Copper

Copper in Drinking Water

What is copper?
Copper is found naturally in the environment and from human-made sources such as farming, mining, and wastewater releases. It can also be found in groundwater and tap water used for drinking water. Copper is needed for all living things to survive. A person's diet should include small amounts of copper in order to be healthy. While copper is important to our health, high amounts can be harmful.

What health problems can copper cause?
Drinking water with high amounts of copper can cause upset stomach, vomiting, diarrhea, and stomach cramps. High amounts of copper have been linked to liver and kidney damage.
Formula-fed children under the age of one already get their needed copper from infant formula. Higher levels of copper from drinking water may cause an upset stomach or other health issues, as babies may be more sensitive to elevated copper levels.
In addition, people with rare diseases, like Wilson's Disease, can have problems getting rid of copper from their body. They should follow their doctor's recommendations, which may include avoiding extra sources of copper in certain foods, medications and drinking water from copper pipes.

How does copper get into my drinking water?
Copper can be found in groundwater and surface water used for drinking water. However, copper found in drinking water often comes from a home's pipes or fixtures. When copper pipes get older, they may start to break down, letting the metal get into the water.
How much copper is permitted in my water?
The Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) limits how much copper and other chemicals can be in municipal drinking water. Currently, the action level is 1,300 parts per billion (ppb) for copper in drinking water. When 10 percent of tested homes on the same public water supply have copper above 1,300 parts per billion (ppb) in the water, the water supplier acts to lower the amount of copper in the water.

How do I know if copper is in my drinking water?

- Copper in water can cause blue-green stains on plumbing, such as sinks, faucets, and pipes. It can cause a metallic or bitter taste in drinking water.
- However, testing is the best way to know if copper is in your drinking water.
- Call your local health department or a certified laboratory to get a test kit. To learn more about test kit availability, fees, and instructions, visit Michigan.gov/EGLE and click on "Testing Water Laboratory".



Nitrate and Nitrite

Nitrate and Nitrite in Drinking Water for Well Owners

What are nitrate and nitrite?
Nitrate (NO₃) and nitrite (NO₂) are forms of nitrogen in the environment, both natural and human-made. Large amounts of nitrate in drinking water can be harmful to a person's health because nitrate can change into nitrite in the human body.

What health problems can nitrate and nitrite cause?
Swallowing high amounts of nitrate and/or nitrite can cause a condition called methemoglobinemia when given water or formula made with water that has high amounts of nitrate. Infants younger than six months of age and pregnant women are more at risk of developing this condition. Others can develop this condition too, such as those with genetic conditions or reduced stomach acidity. It's important to talk with your doctor or your child's doctor if you have concerns about methemoglobinemia.

Pregnant Women and Infants
During pregnancy, the body's ability to carry oxygen changes. When combined with high amounts of nitrate, a pregnant woman's chances of developing this condition increase.
Methemoglobinemia is commonly called blue baby syndrome in infants younger than six months of age. Infants can develop this condition when given water or formula made with water that has high amounts of nitrate. Infants have less acid in their stomachs, resulting in more bacteria that change nitrate to nitrite. Having too much nitrite in the body affects the blood's ability to carry oxygen. This causes the skin around the eyes and mouth to turn a bluish color. Methemoglobinemia can cause death if not addressed. Immediately stop using the water and contact your child's doctor if you notice these symptoms.

How does nitrate get into your well water?
When nitrate seeps into the ground it can get into drinking water. Nitrate is more likely to enter your water if you have a shallow well, damaged well casing and fittings, a well not within a clay barrier underground, or nearby unsealed or abandoned wells. Nitrate found in drinking water is often from:

- Fertilizers
- Livestock waste
- Raining upon tanks, barnyards and drywells



Coliform Bacteria (Spanish)

Coliform Bacteria (Arabic)

Nitrate and Nitrite (Spanish)

Nitrate and Nitrite (Arabic)

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Michigan PFAS Response Website

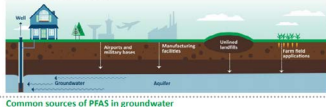
PFAS in Drinking Water for Private Residential Well Owners

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Having a private residential well means you are responsible for your own water system. This includes taking care of your own system and knowing your surroundings to protect your drinking water and health.

Read on to learn important information about PFAS. It could help you decide if you should test your drinking water.

How PFAS get into drinking water

- PFAS are a large group of human-made chemicals that do not occur naturally in our environment. PFAS are used in many commercial products such as stain repellents, fast food wrappers, and waterproofing sprays. They are also used in manufacturing processes.
- When PFAS are released in the environment from the sources listed below, they can seep into groundwater which becomes drinking water.



Common sources of PFAS in groundwater

- Airport and Military Base:** PFAS have been and continue to be used in firefighting foam. Groundwater contaminated with PFAS near airports and military bases is often associated with the use of firefighting foam.
- Manufacturing facilities:** PFAS have been used in manufacturing. They can be released into lakes and rivers during production or may be in industrial waste that seeps into the soil and groundwater.
- Unlined Landfills:** PFAS are used in many different consumer products that eventually end up in landfills. PFAS in unlined landfills can seep into groundwater.
- Farm field applications:** PFAS may be in treated livestock which are materials produced during the processing of wastewater. Sometimes, used on farmland as fertilizer. Once applied, it can seep into groundwater.

Lead

Michigan.gov/MiLeadSafe

Lead in Drinking Water

Almost everyone has been exposed to lead at some time in their life. Your drinking water is one way you may be exposed to lead.
Lead in drinking water can be harmful to health. Especially for children and pregnant women's babies. **Know the facts about potential lead exposure. Learn if you should consider testing your drinking water to protect you and your family's health.**

How lead gets into drinking water

- The most common source of lead in drinking water is plumbing made with lead-like pipes, fittings, faucets, and flasks. When plumbing breaks down, pieces (particulates) can break away. Lead can also dissolve into the water.**
- Older Plumbing:** Older houses, fittings, and valves sold before 2014 may contain up to 8 percent lead when first used.
- Older Homes:** Homes built before 1900 with copper plumbing may have lead-soldered joints.
- Homes on a community public water supply:** Some older homes have lead service lines. The service line is the underground plumbing that connects to the house to the water main.
- Homes on a type 1 public water supply or a private residential well:** Parts of a well system like a packer or brass components of a submersible pump may contain lead.



Problems with lead in drinking water
Lead can be harmful to everyone's health, and the most affected is the brain and nervous system. Children and developing fetuses are most at risk, as their brains and nervous systems are still developing. This much lead is linked to some possible health effects such as:

Children	Pregnant Women
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower IQ scores • Increased problems with behavior and attention related disorders • Decreased hearing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impaired neurodevelopment of fetus • Low birth weight for infant • High blood pressure during pregnancy

Drinking Water Best Practices

Private Residential Well Maintenance

Drinking Water Well Maintenance

Maintaining your well and the surrounding area is important for protecting your drinking water and your health. Here are tips on how to maintain your well through regular inspections, testing, and treatment.

Well Inspection

Wellhead and Well Cap

Check the wellhead (the part of the well that's above ground) and the well cap (the part that covers the wellhead) several times a year. Look at the wellhead casing and cap for any cracks or openings that shouldn't be there. The cap should be secure, locked, and sealed against rain getting into the well.

If you find problems, contact a registered well driller. To find a registered well driller in your area, visit Michigan.gov/WellDriller and choose "Directory of Registered Contractors."

Well System

- Have a registered well driller inspect the well system every 10 years or as needed. The inspection will include the condition of the well, pump, storage tank, piping, and valves. When it's time for a new well, contact a registered well driller for installation and to properly abandon (plug or seal) the old well.

Surroundings

Look around your well to see if items or materials are nearby that could impact your well.

- Do not store, use, or dump harmful materials such as paint, herbicides, pesticides, and motor oil near the wellhead. If you do use lawn fertilizer, follow the application instructions. Don't over apply near the wellhead.
- Keep the top of your wellhead 12 inches above the ground. Slope the ground away to help keep water from pooling near the wellhead.
- Do not plant shrubs and trees near the well.
- Be sure you can easily get to your wellhead for maintenance and/or for pump replacement. Never build a deck or porch over a wellhead. Buildings should be at least 5 feet from the wellhead.
- Keep dog kennels or animal holding areas at least 50 feet from your well.
- If your home has a septic system it's important to maintain it. Poor maintenance can lead to contaminants getting into your drinking water.

Routine Well Maintenance

Regular maintenance is recommended for your well, including water testing and inspection. Having a maintenance routine will keep you informed of your drinking water quality and possibly identify problems.

Water Testing

Michigan homeowners are required to test their drinking water for coliform bacteria when a well is installed. Consider testing your drinking water if testing has happened near your well, your well has had repairs, or you notice changes in your water taste, color, or odor. The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) recommends testing:

- Every three to five years for arsenic, copper, and lead.
- Every year for coliform bacteria, iron, nitrate, and nitrite.
- Check with your local health department to see if there are other times you need to test your drinking water. They may recommend other testing based on water conditions in the area.

Drinking Water Testing

Protect Against the Unknown: Test Your Drinking Water from Your Well

Contaminants in drinking water can harm everyone's health. Some can cause short-term health problems while others can cause long-term health problems.

As a well owner, you can protect your family's health by testing your water regularly.

Why is it important to test your drinking water?

Testing will keep you informed about your water quality and help identify problems. Testing the water used for drinking, cooking, food, or mixing powdered infant formula is especially important.

Pregnant women, infants, and young children's health can be more at risk. It's important to talk with your doctor if you have health concerns.

- Some contaminants can pass from the mother to the fetus. The path the fetus is at risk of harm to their health and development.
- Babies drink more for their size than children and adults. This can result in higher exposure to babies than adults, which could increase risk of harm to their health.

When should you test your drinking water, and for what?

Wells are required to be tested for coliform bacteria when installed or repaired in Michigan. Based on where you live, you may be required to test your water at other times, such as during real estate transactions.

Call your local health department to learn more about when you need to test your water. They may also recommend additional testing based on water conditions in your area.

	Every Year	Every 3 to 5 Years
Coliform Bacteria and <i>E. coli</i>	Arsenic	
Nitrate	Copper	
Nitrite	Lead	

Other times to consider testing your water:

- A household member becomes pregnant
- An infant or young child is living in the home
- Flooding has happened near the well
- Repairs were made to the well
- The water's taste, color, or smell changes





Cleaning your Aerator

Cleaning Your Aerators

What are aerators and when should they be cleaned?

There are screens on faucets called aerators. Aerators help keep pieces of lead and other particles from getting into your water. Clean your drinking water faucet aerator at least every six months. If there is construction or repairs to the public water system or pipes near your home, clean your drinking water faucet aerator every month until the work is done.

Follow the steps below to clean your aerators:

- 
 - The small round piece on the bottom of your faucet is the aerator (pronounced air-ray-tor).
 - Unscrew the aerator from the bottom of the faucet.
 - You should be able to remove it with your fingers, but you might need a wrench if it's stuck.
- 
 - Your aerator might not look the same as this, but it's okay.
 - Now that the aerator is off, let's clean it.
- 
 - While you only need to use water to rinse off your aerator, these things might make it easier to clean it:
 - An old toothbrush
 - A glass of vinegar
- 
 - Soaking the aerator in vinegar will loosen some of the grime. You can soak it as long as you want, but even five minutes will help.
 - The toothbrush makes it easy to scrub the inside. Don't use that toothbrush for brushing your teeth again.

Private Residential Well Maintenance (Spanish)

Private Residential Well Maintenance (Arabic)

Cleaning your Aerator (Spanish)

Know Your Drinking Water

Drinking Water Supply Types

Drinking Water Supply Types

- Provides water to at least 25 residents or 15 living units year-round.
- Some examples are municipalities (cities, towns, etc.), apartments, nursing homes and manufactured housing communities.
- The water is pumped from surface water (lakes, rivers) or groundwater using water wells.

Type 1 Community Public Water Supply

- Provides water to at least 25 of the same people for at least six months or more a year, but not for year-round residential living.
- Some examples are schools, daycares and office buildings that have their own water system.
- Water is typically pumped from groundwater using water wells.

Type 2 Non-Transient Non-Community Public Water Supply

- Provides water to at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year, but does not serve the same 25 people for more than six months of the year.
- Some examples are hotels, restaurants, campgrounds, gas stations and churches.
- Water is typically pumped from groundwater using water wells.


Type 2 Transient Non-Community Public Water Supply

- All other public water supplies that provide drinking water not considered a Type 1 or Type 2 are considered a Type 3.
- Some examples are small apartment complexes or condominiums, duplexes and very small businesses. Ownership of multiple Type 3 wells may change the drinking water supply type.
- Water is pumped from groundwater using water wells.

Type 3 Public Water Supply

Private Residential Well

- Provides water to a single-family residential home. Water is pumped from groundwater using a water well.



MDHHS Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

EGLE Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy

Disclaimer: This document provides a generalization of drinking water supply types. The exact definition of each type is determined by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services and the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (MDHHS and EGLE). Water supply types are not always clear-cut and may vary by location.

Postcards

Mailing Postcard



Non-Mailing Postcard





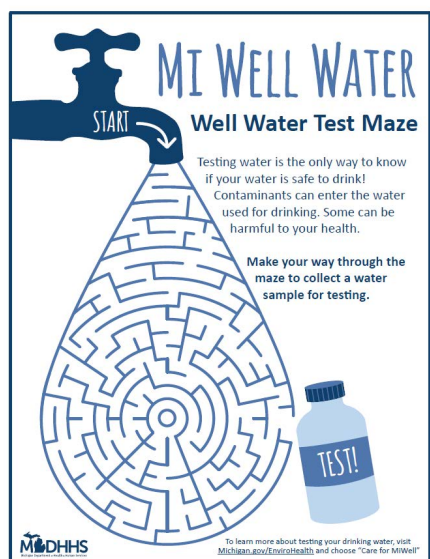
Worksheets

The following worksheets have been designed to be fun and entertaining for school-aged children while they also learn about drinking water. These can be used in classrooms or as fun at-home activities for children.

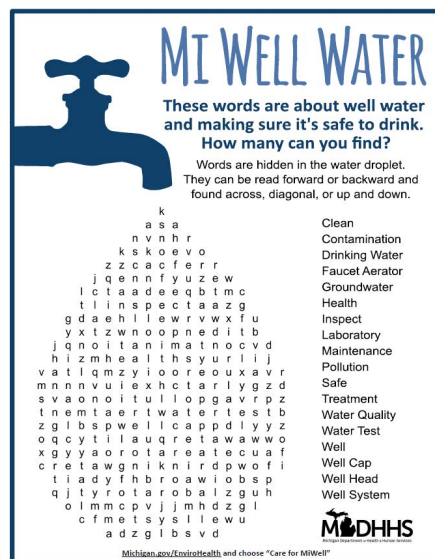
All worksheets are standard letter 8.5 x 11 size and one page. View and save the worksheets by clicking on the icon/image. The worksheet will open in a new window where you can then download and save to your files.

Worksheets

Designed for Upper Elementary+



Designed for Middle School+



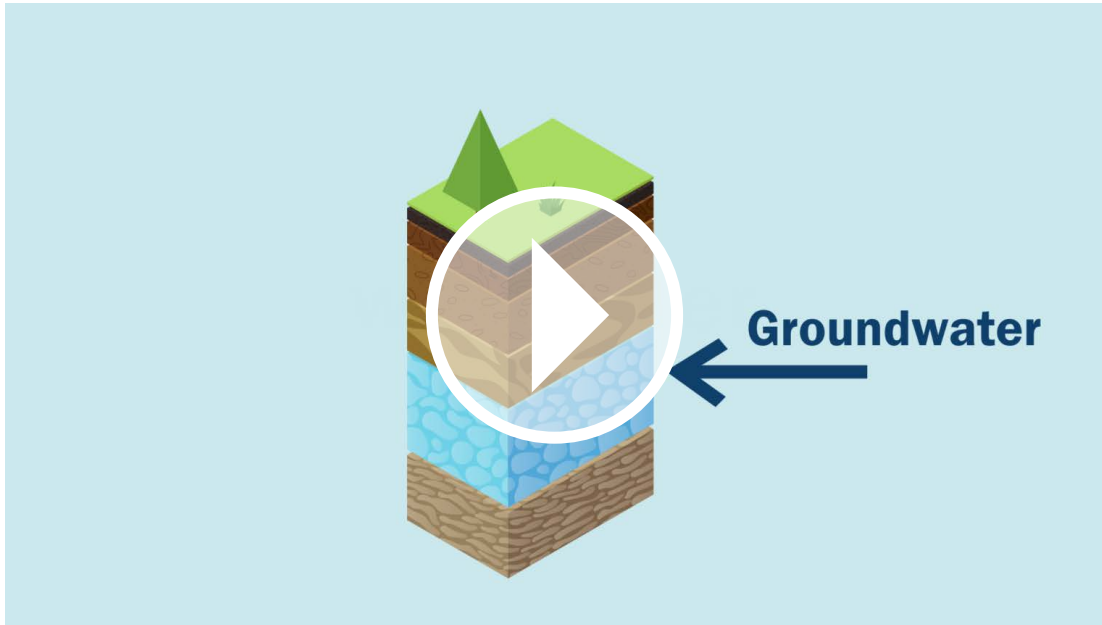


Videos

The following videos have been designed to help explain topics related to drinking water and health. View the video by clicking on the icon/image. The video will open in a new window. You can then copy the link to the video to share!

Videos

Where does your drinking water come from? Follow water from start to tap.





Contact Us

To request printed materials (while supplies last), please complete this [request form](#). You can also call the MDHHS Drinking Water Hotline at 844-934-1315 to request supplies or if you have any questions about the materials we have provided.